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Request for the inclusion of a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session

Towards global partnerships

Letter dated 4 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to request the inclusion of a supplementary item entitled "Towards global partnerships" in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly. As this subject touches upon issues beyond the scope of one Main Committee, it would be appropriate to allocate it to the plenary of the General Assembly itself.

In accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, an explanatory memorandum is attached as an annex to this letter.

(*Signed*) Hanns **Schumacher**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Explanatory memorandum

Towards global partnerships

The implications of globalization for modern societies and development have constituted an overarching issue in United Nations activities of the last few years. There is widespread consent that globalization is setting off deep changes, among others, the emergence of new "global players" in civil society and business. Governments and multilateral institutions have to take this into consideration in evaluating their role and functions in the future.

Globalization offers great opportunities; its benefits, however, are unevenly distributed. Thus, we should look at concrete ways and means of establishing true, inclusive and global partnerships with all relevant actors on an equal basis. No Member State, no geographical region should be left out of this process, which is aimed finally at improving living conditions and eradicating poverty on a large scale.

It is primarily up to Governments to address this issue and to discuss it in the United Nations, the only truly universal forum. The Member States, together with the United Nations Secretariat, should exert their influence to build these new partnerships in order to secure a balanced and positive outcome.

At the same time, ways and means have to be explored to ensure that new global players carry their share of responsibilities for our common future. This requires a focused and integrated approach, with particular emphasis on the question of coherence.

Germany takes the position that the General Assembly should examine this fundamental issue with a special view to the role of the Secretary-General, the United Nations system and its member countries, and their respective efforts in this area, following up the theme of the Millennium Summit, "The role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century". To this end, the Permanent Mission of Germany is involved in ongoing consultations with other interested Member States from all regions.

We therefore kindly request the inclusion of this question as a supplementary item in the agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the General Assembly.